

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16, 17, and 19-55 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claims 2, 15 and 18 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, 16, 17, 23, 25, and 51 have been amended. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claim 14.

Specification

The suggested replacement changes have been made.

Drawing

The Applicants submit herewith revised FIG. 8C. No new matter has been added to FIG. 8C.

§ 112 Rejection

Claims 7, 8, 16, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. These claims have been amended to refer to the proper independent claims.

§ 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1,3, 6-8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 22-24, 25-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 37-40, 42-47, 49, 50, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Floyd, Jr. (of record) for reasons of record. Floyd is directed to a connection means for a waveguide that includes a clamping member 30 and a flange member 21. The clamping member 30 includes a flange 37 that is adapted to be disposed within an opening of the clamping member 30. Column 4, lines 6-24. Floyd does not disclose a plurality of different flange members or a clamping member that

has a flange coupling interface configured to mate with any of the different standard flange interfaces.

Independent claims 1 and 17 are directed to a system and an assembly, respectively, that positively recite a library of flanges. As stated in the previous response, claims also include the limitation that a single flange is chosen from this library and that the flange coupling interface of the adaptor must be configured to mate with any of the standard flange interfaces in the library. Floyd, by its teaching of a single flange, does not disclose a flange coupling interface that is capable of mating with different flanges. Thus, for at least this reason, these independent claims and the claims which depend from them are now believed to be allowable over Floyd.

Independent claim 9 recites a waveguide adaptor that includes a flange coupling interface that "is configured to mate with any of said different standard flange interfaces." Floyd does not disclose such an adaptor. Floyd discloses an adaptor that is configured to mate with only one flange interface, not any of a plurality of flange interfaces. The Examiner states that in the final product, the adaptor only mates with a single flange interface, and for this reason, the interface is disclosed by Floyd. The Applicants respectfully disagree. The final product is of an adaptor that is configured to mate with a plurality of flange interfaces. Despite the Examiner's argument that only one interface is mated at a time, the adaptor of claim 9 is structurally different than what is disclosed in Floyd. For at least this reason, claim 9 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Floyd.

Independent claims 25 and 51 are directed to a system and a method, respectively. Each include the limitation that each of a plurality of waveguide flanges have a generally common

internal mating configuration. Floyd does not teach such a limitation, since Floyd is directed to only a single flange. For at least this reason, claims 25 and 51 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 37 is directed to a flange adaptor assembly that has an outer surface is adapted to engage the generally common internal mating configuration of the waveguide flanges. As stated above in reference to claim 9, Floyd does not disclose an adaptor that is configured to engage a common internal mating configuration of a plurality of waveguide flanges. Floyd only discloses that an adaptor includes a surface that is adapted to a particular surface of one waveguide flange. Contrary to the Examiner's argument that the final product is the same, the adaptor of claim 37 is structurally distinct from the adaptor disclosed in Floyd. For at least this reason, claim 37 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Floyd.

§ 103(a) Rejection

Claims 28 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd, Jr. in view of Saad ('959), both of record of reasons of record.

Dependent claims 28 and 41 ultimately depend from independent claims 25 and 37. Therefore, these claims include the limitation that "the outer surface is adapted to engage said generally common internal mating configuration of said waveguide flanges." As stated above, in reference to these independent claims, Floyd does not disclose such a limitation. Saad does not teach or suggest such a limitation. For at least this reason, dependent claims 28 and 41 are believed to be allowable over the combination of Floyd and Saad.

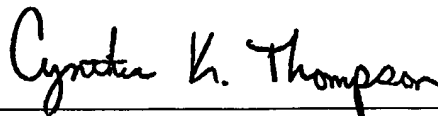
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/056,679
Amendment "B" dated August 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated June 29, 2004

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview,
the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia K. Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Date: August 27, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet of drawings includes a changes to FIG. 8C. This sheet, which include FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D. No new matter has been added to FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C, and 8D.